

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03

LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00

OMB-01 /108 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1621

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD GATT EEC EFTA UK

SUBJECT: STATUS OF PROPOSALS FOR CHANGES IN EC/EFTA
RULES OF ORIGIN

REF: A) STATE 120525; B) STOCKHOLM 1224; C) BONN A-26

1. SUMMARY. ACCORDING TO THE BRITISH, THE EC ORIGIN COMMITTEE HAS SO FAR HAD ONLY VERY PRELIMINARY EXCHANGES OF VIEWS ON THE EFTA, GERMAN AND OTHER PROPOSALS FOR CHANGES IN THE EC-EFTA RULES OF ORIGIN. THE DUTCH AND GERMANS ARE PUSHING HARDEST FOR LIBERALIZATION. THE BRITISH STRONGLY FAVOR SIMPLIFICATION OF THE RULES, AND ON THE WHOLE CONSIDER LIBERALIZATION TO BE A GOOD THING, ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE SOME RESERVATIONS (NOTABLY TEXTILES). THE FRENCH TAKE THE MOST RESTRICTIVE POSITION. THE EC MEMBER STATES HAVE TO CONSULT WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE INDUSTRIES BEFORE THEY CAN DISCUSS THE PROPOSED CHANGES IN DETAIL. MORE SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS COULD BEGIN THIS FALL. ONCE THE ORIGIN COMMITTEE COMPLETES ITS WORK (SOMETIME IN 1976 AT THE EARLIEST), IT WOULD SUBMIT ITS VIEWS TO THE EC COUNCIL FOR DECISION. END SUMMARY.

2. WE HAVE DISCUSSED THE STATUS OF PROPOSALS FOR REVISION SECRETARY, TARIFF DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF TRADE.

3. ACCORDING TO CLARK, THE PROPOSALS SUBMITTED BY THE SWEDISH AMBASSADOR TO THE EC LAST MARCH (REF B) HAVE THE SUPPORT OF ALL EFTA MEMBERS. IN SUBMITTING THESE PROPOSALS, SWEDEN WAS ACTING ON EFTA'S BEHALF. THERE ARE NO SEPARATE "SWEDISH PROPOSALS" AS IMPLIED IN PARA 3 REFTEL.

4. CLARK SAID THAT THE EFTA PROPOSALS ARE BEING CONSIDERED BY THE EC'S ORIGIN COMMITTEE--A WORKING PARTY CHAIRED BY THE COMMISSION, IN WHICH ALL THE MEMBER STATES PARTICIPATE. THE ORIGIN COMMITTEE IS ALSO CONSIDERING THE GERMAN PROPOSALS THAT WERE SUBMITTED LAST YEAR (REF C), AND SOME LESS ELABORATE PROPOSALS FROM OTHER EC MEMBER STATES WHICH--LIKE THE GERMAN PROPOSALS--WERE SUBMITTED IN 1974 IN CONNECTION WITH THE EC'S CONSIDERATION OF WAYS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO SIMPLIFY THE CUSTOMS UNION.

5. THE EFTA AND GERMAN PROPOSALS HAVE A NUMBER OF COMMON FEATURES. BOTH, ACCORDING TO CLARK, ARE "VERY MUCH A REVERSION TO THE FORMER EFTA RULES." THEY AIM AT SIMPLIFI-

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

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CATION, AND WOULD ALSO INVOLVE LIBERALIZATION.

6. SO FAR, THE ORIGIN COMMITTEE HAS HAD ONLY VERY PRELIMINARY EXCHANGES OF VIEWS. THE DUTCH AND GERMANS ARE PRESSING HARDEST FOR LIBERALIZATION. THE UK, CLARK SAID, STRONGLY FAVORS SIMPLIFICATION. ON THE WHOLE, IT CONSIDERS LIBERALIZATION TO BE A GOOD THING, BUT IT HAS SOME RESERVATIONS, NOTABLY WITH REGARD TO TEXTILES. THE FRENCH ACCORDING TO CLARK, TAKE THE MOST RESTRICTIVE LINE.

7. BEFORE THEY CAN DISCUSS CHANGES IN THE RULES OF ORIGIN IN DETAIL, THE EC GOVERNMENTS HAVE TO HOLD ELABORATE CONSULTATIONS WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE INDUSTRIES. THE UK'S DEPARTMENT OF TRADE CIRCULATED A LETTER TO FIRMS IN APRIL, DESCRIBING SPECIFIC EFTA AND GERMAN PROPOSALS AND ASKING FOR REACTIONS. (WE ARE FORWARDING A COPY OF THIS LETTER BY AIRGRAM.) CLARK SAID THAT THE MEMBER STATES COULD BEGIN MORE SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS IN THE FALL. CONTACTS WITH THE EFTA COUNTRIES WOULD CONTINUE THROUGH INFORMAL CHANNELS. ONCE THE ORIGIN COMMITTEE HAD COMPLETED ITS WORK ON THE PROPOSALS (SOMETIME IN 1976, AT THE EARLIEST), IT WOULD SUBMIT ITS VIEWS TO THE EC COUNCIL FOR DECISION. IN THE PAST, CLARK SAID, THE COUNCIL HAS GENERALLY ACCEPTED ORIGIN COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS WITHOUT MUCH FURTHER DISCUSSION.

8. ECON/COM MINISTER RECENTLY RAISED QUESTION OF CHANGES IN THE EC-EFTA RULES OF ORIGIN WITH ROY DENMAN, DEPUTY SECRETARY AT THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE. DENMAN SAID THAT THE UK WOULD, OF COURSE, BE IN FAVOR OF LIBERALIZING THE RULES, BUT HE DOUBTED ANYTHING COULD OR WOULD BE DONE UNTIL 1976. DENMAN DID NOT APPEAR TO BE INFORMED ON THE EFTA AND GERMAN IDEAS, AND IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT PROPOSALS FOR CHANGING THE RULES HAVE NOT BEEN DISCUSSED AT HIGH LEVELS HERE.

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